One thing separates the water hunter from the land hunter, and that’s recovering a find. Since you can’t see under the water (most of the time, at least), more attention must be given to digging techniques, target analysis and other aspects of recovery.

When your detector signals a coin under sand lying four feet beneath ocean waves, recovery is considerably different—and more difficult—than in a park or playground. Your retrieval tool will depend upon soil conditions and personal preferences.

In sandy areas, a scoop is the fastest. If the soil is muddy or made of hardened clay, you will need some kind of digger. In deep water, a long-handled scoop is required to retrieve your finds, sometimes in combination with a digger.

When the water grows colder, hip or chest-high waders and suitable underclothing will keep you warm and dry. When wearing waders, be alert or else you may bend over too far. Suddenly, you’ll find yourself wearing “convertible” gear. Your waders have been “converted” into a wet suit!

In deep water, use one of the following scoop-retrieving methods. First, pinpoint the detected object. Then, bring the scoop forward and lightly touch the back edge of the searchcoil. Move the searchcoil out of the way and tilt the scoop forward and press on the butt of the scoop with your foot.

I don’t like this method because of the resulting squeal when the metal scoop comes near my searchcoil. I prefer to place my left foot beside the searchcoil and move the searchcoil to the right. Then, I lower the scoop until it touches the inside heel of my left shoe in the correct position for retrieval.

Other water hunters place their foot lightly on top of the searchcoil, then move the coil away. This lets them place the scoop adjacent to their shoe to achieve correct scoop positioning.

Regardless of the method you use, practice until you have achieved perfection, even digging several scoop depths, if necessary. It’s also a good idea for water hunting to use treasure pouches that can be closed securely to keep coins and other valuables (also trash) from floating off when your pouch becomes submerged.

Some of your recovered water items may be heavily corroded and unrecognizable. When in doubt, take items home for closer examination and cleaning before discarding them as trash.

For more tips on water hunting and coinshooting, be sure to read my book Successful Coin Hunting. Another RAM Book release with valuable information is Relic Quest by Steve Moore. In his revised second edition (now available from Garrett), Steve has added additional water hunting stories and tips.

Finally, Garrett’s website and YouTube channel have informative and entertaining short videos about using our latest detectors to hunt sand, surf, lakes and streams. Keep an eye out for more videos soon!
Fabulous Finds

Jean-Philippe L. of Chagny, France found this gold Roman ring (above) while hunting in the forest with his GTP 1350. It is engraved with a palm tree branch, a traditional mark of peace. He also recovered this French coin from 1793 (right), which depicts King Louis XVI.

Bart O. (right) of Belgium has made quite a few good finds since buying a EuroACE detector. His best day so far was during a recent hunt in a field that had already been hunted several times before. Bart was able to dig 42 Roman bronze coins (seen above) that date to about the middle 1st to 2nd century.

France

Belgium

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Mike H. of Alabama shows his AT Gold finds after ten days of using this detector at the DIV (Diggin’ in Virginia) XXI hunt, and at other sites in Virginia, Tennessee and Alabama, just before and just after this hunt.
How To Get Maximum Depth And Performance Out Of Your "AT" Series

by John Bortscher

John has found more than 100,000 coins in 20 years of searching with Garrett detectors. He is active on many Internet detecting forums and is currently the moderator of Garrett’s sections on Findmall.com—including the AT Pro and AT Gold Forum.

* With the AT Pro, learn and hunt in Pro Mode. It is deeper than Standard Mode. With the AT Gold, the All Metal Mode is deeper than Disc 1 or Disc 2.

* Has a place been hunted out? Go back and try again after a good rain soaking. Moist soil gives better sensitivity and greater depth readings for targets.

* If you get a nice high audio and a VDI (Digital Target ID) in the 70s or 80s, dig it.

* The larger the coil the deeper it goes. However, too many targets under a large coil can mask a good target. If you get a slight good audio using the large coil, lift it up 2-3 inches and center the coil where the good audio was. Often times the good target will be much clearer.

* Get a coil cover and scrub the ground. Some people scan the ground inches above it....DON'T....You can gain a couple of inches scrubbing, which is significant.

* Don’t swing too fast! Just because it has a very fast “recovery speed”....doesn’t mean it can always pick out that one good silver coin amongst several pieces of junk. The electronics still need to process lots of information.

"Swing too fast, you will come in last!"

* Swinging too fast can make you a sloppy hunter. You also risk eventually cracking/breaking your coil and elephant ears from the constant banging on trees, playground equipment or concrete.

* If you are getting lots of EMI or increased mineralization which is causing erratic audio, try adjusting your discrimination first, before lowering the sensitivity. This sometimes lets the machine run smoother without losing any depth.

* If you get mixture of audio signals, scan the target from different directions. Sometimes a good target is beside or partially underneath a good target. The AT series has a unique ability to pick out those good targets amongst the trash. Going at the target from different directions allows the AT Pro to perform even better!

* Ground balance your machine occasionally. Temperature can change, and directly affect the settings. Hunting in shade vs. sun can vary. This could mean a 14 degree difference on a lawn area to a 35 degree difference on a parking lot. Mineralization can also change between areas....so again...ground balance periodically.

* To increase the depth/sensitivity to silver targets, lower the ground balance numbers 10-20 points. (Note: in more mineralized soils, manually skewing the ground balance may cause unstable operation. This technique is applicable in more neutral soil settings.)

* If you are hunting an area that is absolutely covered with nails, try ground balancing out a nail until it is nothing but a small amount of static. Now....all the copper and silver targets will give a loud audio response....BUT the target IDs will be off.

* Build a test garden...use good and bad targets at different depths. You will soon discover that deep silver targets beyond depths of 8 or more inches might not sound off as a high pitch and the VDI numbers may read lower than normal or become jumpy. That is very good information to know. My rule of thumb states if it’s deep....it’s old. Dig it! It costs you nothing.

* Run with your battery charge level closer to the top than the bottom level. Generally, when you get near that last battery condition segment, replace your batteries. The AT series will run 100% until the battery runs down to a certain point. Because nobody knows exactly where that point is on their machine, don’t try and find out. With the price of cheap alkalines or rechargeable “AA” batteries, you should never reach that unknown point. Bring spares, or top off your rechargeables before the hunt.

* Read the manual and watch the videos. Garrett has posted many videos to help with problem areas such as pinpointing, ground balancing, Iron Audio, Target Id, and target sizing. These are just a few. Go to either of these links for more information.

**AT Pro videos:**

**AT Gold videos:**
http://www.garrett.com/hobbysite/hbby_at_gold_library_videos_international.aspx
Sand, Surf and Swimmin’ Holes

Bob Spratley of Florida continues to amaze with the artifacts he recovers from some of the earliest European explorers to set foot on American soil. His latest incredible recovery is from a very early fort site in Northeast Florida.

After initially probing the area, he said he “found some coquina, which I assumed that was the wall or some type of fortification. Then I spent two days cleaning away the underbrush and briars. Once it was cleaned, I used the Infinium to detect over the area once again. I got a faint sound by the edge of one large piece of coquina. I dug this block out and the ones surrounding it. I used the detector once again and got a huge hit. After digging for a while, cutting roots, etc. away, then I hit metal.”

From an 18-inch depth Bob pulled up what turned out to be an early European Ranseur—a type of polearm comprised of a spear-tip head affixed with a cross hilt mounted on a wooden staff that was generally 6 to 10 feet in length.

“Apparently it was lost in battle and the wall was pushed over on top of it. It does have two cracks in it which may have come from the battle or either the blocks of coquina falling on top of it. Once I got it out I was ecstatic. I searched the area again and again where it had laid and found three hand made nails that helped hold it in place!”

After recovering the Ranseur, Bob turned to restoring the 1600–1700s era artifact. After an initial round of electrolysis to remove some of the rust, “I finally turned to sandblasting it with some very find sand that is found only on the beach of Siesta Key, Florida. It is made of pure quartz and does a remarkable job of cleaning artifacts.”

(Left) Bob holds his European Ranseur find while he works on sandblasting it. (Below) The 17th Century weapon undergoing electrolysis.  
(Bottom) The final, preserved artifact.
Garrett Videos from Europe

Garrett films various treasure hunts during the year to include on our website and on the Garrett YouTube channel. Several of the latest were filmed in parts of Europe by members of the sales and marketing team in April and May. Other short videos will be edited and uploaded in the weeks to come.

(Left) These were the better finds from two days of searching farm fields in Belgium. Several of the finds from the first day have been rinsed off for this photo. The recovered items include three Roman coins, three religious pendants, lead seals, a crotal bell, and numerous bronze coins from the 1600s and 1700s. The finds were made by Franco Berlingieri and Mitchell Hermans of Belgium and Steve Moore and Henry Teilez of Garrett with AT Gold and AT Pro International detectors.

Other new Garrett videos were shot for information on hunting UK beaches. One highlights Bournemouth-area hunter Jack D. (right), who describes how he uses the ACE 250 to hunt at the coast. Jack is shown holding some of his recent jewelry finds (left) from the coast.

A $1,000+ Dime find!

John B. of Topeka, KS shared this story of his buddy’s rare dime find in early 2012:

“A friend interested in hunting arrowheads agreed to accompany me metal detecting a harvested field. The field has been hunted heavily for many years by local club members with lots of experience and many brands of detectors.

“Using my ACE 250 on our second visit to the field, he found arguably the rarest Barber Dime, a 1895-0 in VF. He also found other Barber and Merc dimes, Indian Head pennies, a Standing Liberty quarter, bullets, musket balls, minie balls, etc. He is now an ACE 250 owner.”

(The May 2012 issue of Coins Magazine shows that an 1895-O Barber dime with a grading standard of VF-20 is worth more than $1,200.)
Ten-year-old Jerry H. of Dordrecht, Netherlands has a way of turning up great finds with his ACE 250. At age 8, he found a 1583 full Rosenoble gold coin (below) in Belgium (which he is seen holding at a spring 2012 rally above). Jerry has also found a 2,000-year-old bronze necklace and a 1650s-era gold broach with his ACE.

John Howland of England (above) holds a Roman bronze coin he has just recovered with his AT Pro International. He was hunting on private property near historic Corfe Castle, land that has been the site of a number of organized rallies in past years. "I was particularly happy to make this find," John said. "It shows the ability of the AT Pro to sniff out good targets in grounds that are 'pounded out' already."

Austria

Lukas M. of Steiermark, Austria found this 1-kreutzer coin from 1762, which depicts empress Maria Theresa. Lukas was hunting with his EuroACE in the woods near his home.

Slovakia

GTI 2500 user Jan V. of Senica, Slovakia found this Roman design intaglio.

England

This Valentinian I Roman coin (ca. 364–375 AD) was found by Sergejs G. of Bridgewater, Somerset. "I was about to leave the field and decided to clean my coil in a puddle of mud," he said. "Fortunately, I didn’t switch off my EuroACE, so when I got the coil in the water, I heard a good, clear signal. And there it was, 15 cm under the ground and 5 cm underwater—my first Roman coin."

Switzerland

This silver 50-cent Republique of France 1882 coin was found by Liechti C. of Switzerland with an AT Pro International.
Florida

The following cache hunting story was submitted by Richard V. of Pembroke Pines, FL. During a recent visit to Cuba to see family, he used his ACE 250 to pursue a cache hidden by his grandfather.

"I was told by my mother that her father buried money somewhere in the back of their home in Cuba. He didn’t trust the banking system back then. He died and never told anyone exactly were he buried the money.

"I learned this story growing up as a kid. Well, I was finally blessed and was able to visit Cuba to meet my family for the first time! Well to make a long story short after searching for four days in 90 degrees plus damp weather and with Grandma’s mentoring, to my surprise and amazement I found a completely rotten wooden box with old paper Cuban money and to add to my surprise Roman coins! My grandma gave me my share!

"I’m still in a state of shock. When I spoke to grandmother in Cuba she explained to me that my grandfather was a Merchant Marine. So, maybe he bought them in Rome or found them. I’m very proud of this find but, I could have never found them without the help of Grandma and my Garrett ACE 250. Thank you, Garrett, for making it all possible!"

Florida - A Cuban Cache Find

Old and new: Richard’s cache of Roman coins and Cuban money.

Poland

This medallion was found with an ACE 250 by Bartlomiej W. of Wroclaw, Poland.

England

EuroACE user Rob J. of Belper, Derbyshire sent in photos of his recent finds and some made by his son with his ACE 250. Among their favorites were: (above) 1862 and 1936 half pennies and (below) a late 1800s portion of an old cricket trophy.

Mexico

Tanai P. of Hidalgo, Mexico hunted a former 17th century hacienda site with his ACE 250 and found this 1779 Spanish silver half reale.

Pennsylvania

This 1772 Spanish Pillar 1 reale was dug from 28 cm Robert A. of Essington, PA with an ACE 350.
A Belgian Rally: Fun, Finds, Family

Henry Tellez, Steve Moore and Brian McKenzie from Garrett enjoyed a recent spring rally held near the historic city of Tongeren, Belgium. The event was hosted by NVD-ANP (Nationale Vereniging Detectoramateurs), whose current president is Franco Berlingieri.

More than 50 diggers joined the fun in hunting for buried coins, artifacts and prize tokens. Some of the lucky hunters even found hammered coins and other items that had not been planted by the club organizers.

Family members came along to cheer on their diggers, both young of age and young at heart. Fortunately the day’s early rains subsided by afternoon so that all present could enjoy the good food, companionship and the rally prizes.

The participants at this Belgian rally, such as Paolo S. of Italy (below)—came from several different countries.

(Above) Franco Berlingieri organizes the hunters as they prepare to take to the rally field.
(Below) The adventure begins as searchers scour a pasture for prize tokens, coins and artifacts.

(Right) Hot food was abundant in between the hunts throughout the day.
A Belgian Rally: Fun, Finds, Family

(Above) Steve Moore and others examine some of the finds that are being made.

(Left) Ten-year-old Jerry H. of the Netherlands is off to the races with his ACE as Hunt No. 2 begins!

(Below) A Roman coin and some of the "planted" prize tokens that one of the hunters has found.

(Above) Family fun: Mitchell, Rita and Tiziana.
(Center) Searchers of all ages enjoyed the fun.
(Below) You're never too young to start! This eager youngster won the award for youngest searcher.

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TWICE THE IRON RESOLUTION
OF AN ACE 250
HIGHER FREQUENCY AND
LARGE DD SEARCHCOIL
ALL-PURPOSE VERSATILITY
Here are some of the recent winners!

Visit garrett.com to submit your story and to see previous winners. You could be next!

March winner

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<td>(Above) Jean-Philippe L. of Chagny, France was the International winner with this silver coin found with his GTP 1350. It is a 3.87 gram, 62 BC era Roman coin with the inscription Aemilia Lepidus Paulius Concordia.</td>
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May winner

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<td>(Right) Carl G. of Whitchurch, Shropshire (UK) was the May winner with this gold George III 1775 guinea find. George was using his ACE 150 when he made his first gold coin recovery.</td>
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April winner

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<td>(Right) This 1672 medallion was found by Simon B. of Melbourne, Australia with his GTI 2500. Simon’s oldest British medallion find to date earned him Vaughan’s International Favorite Find of the Month. &quot;I still can’t understand how it got all the way here,&quot; he said. &quot;It was found near a blue stone structure dating back to 1835 where a British family migrated here to Australia. Was it theirs? We'll never know, and that’s what makes this hobby so great.&quot;</td>
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JOIN THE GARRETT SEARCH TEAM!

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<td>(Right) Freddy S. of Durban, South Africa, sent in this photo of his Garrett Search Team patch, which he has sewn onto his favorite jacket. These Garrett collector's patches are available FREE just for participating in Vaughan Garrett's Favorite Find of the Month.</td>
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How do I submit a story to Vaughan?

1. Email testimonials@garrett.com
2. Mail to: Garrett Metal Detectors Attn: Marketing Department 1881 W. State St. Garland, TX 75041 USA
3. Submit your photo and story online by using the "Submit a Story" form:

   http://www.garrett.com/hobbysite/hbby_submit_a_story.asp

Visit this web page for more details on Vaughan’s Favorite Find of the Month.

Keep submitting your stories! There are more PRO-POINTER®s to give away.

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PRO-POINTER® Metal Detector

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- Audible and vibrating alarms intensify based on target proximity
Aaron B. of Medical Lake, WA shared these photos and their exciting story of a big coin cache find.

"We recently purchased the AT Gold and had a great first day," Aaron wrote. "This is my first metal detector I have ever owned. I purchased it in hopes of finding gold, but also liked the discrimination modes that come with it, so my family and I can use it for coins and treasure as well.

"We took the AT Gold out the morning of 4/21 to a local park in hopes of getting familiar with metal detecting. We found a penny and some trash. That afternoon we took it out on our property and thought we would try an old stone fence that ran out back. Much to our surprise, we got a hit in the wall. After moving about 8" of rock we saw the glimmer of something in the dirt. I pulled out an old relish jar of quarters. My daughter and I were so excited that we both yelled and my wife on the back deck thought that someone was hurt; so she came running.

"In the mean time I scanned the hole," said Aaron, "and got another hit. Again I pulled out another relish jar of quarters. Now my wife joined in, in the yelling. I scanned the hole again and found a peanut butter jar full of quarters. We scanned the hole again and that was it, no more beeping. So we brought the cache to the house and started counting. We ended up with 1,038 clad U.S. quarters, two silver half dollars, one buffalo nickel and six Canadian quarters. WOW! What a find! Thanks, Garrett, from the whole family—Aaron, Dawna, Hannah, Rebekah, and Rachel."

(Above) Aaron B. and his daughter hold up one of the three jars of money they found on their property while hunting with their brand-new AT Gold.

(Below) The sum of the three jars of money was six Canadian quarters (1959 to 1973), two silver half dollars, one buffalo nickel and 1,038 U.S. clad quarters (1965 to 1974).
To find your local Garrett dealer, visit garrett.com or call 1-972-494-6151

In our continual effort to improve communications with our customers, we are currently updating our distribution list for the Garrett Searcher newsletter.

GO GREEN: Links to future Garrett Searcher issues can be emailed to you. Your information will not be shared with others.

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1. Go online to garrett.com and fill out the Searcher mailing form.
2. Call Customer Service at 1-972-494-6151 (International)
3. Fill out this card and mail it to: Garrett Metal Detectors ATTN: Searcher 1881 W. State Street Garland, TX 75042 USA

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Act Now! Be notified of new Searcher issues

These photos were sent in by Ovidiu P. (left) from Sacele, Brasov in Romania. He was hunting in the forest with his Garrett Master Hunter CX detector when he found this cache of copper Austrian Kreuzer coins.

(Below) The coins Ovidiu found range in date from 1858 to 1862.